



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, July 01, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>
Phone Number: (404) 366.4720

FOREST PARK CITY HALL
745 Forest Parkway
Forest Park, GA 30297

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez
The Honorable Allan Mears

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager
Randi Rainey, City Clerk
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Dr. Goldsten led the invocation and pledge.

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Council Member, Ward 2		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

John Wiggins, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; James Shelby, Project Manager; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Watley, Deputy Public Works Director; Fire Chief Latosha Clemons; Deputy Fire Chief David Halcomb; Geoff May, Fire Department; Josh Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Pauline Warrior, Senior Management Analyst; Kwame Marshall, Multimedia Specialist; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director Marselles Williams, Economic Director; Brandon Criss, Police Dept.; Mayor Jones, Police Dept; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Court Director, and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the consent agenda.

The motion was made by Councilmember Antoine and seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the agenda as printed.

The motion was made by Councilmember Antoine and seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2024-** City Clerk

Councilmember Gutierrez- recommendation for the garden item when voting, if they can change it to a line item.

Mayor Butler- noted it will be part of the discussion.

It was moved to approve the minutes as printed.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were seven (7) public speakers:

Mayor Butler recognized Senator-Elect Wick. Senator-Elect Wick thanked the governing body and those who voted for her. She noted being a 30-year veteran and mother and looked forward to working with everyone.

Dr. Miriam Gwathney- introduced herself and spoke about JenCare Senior Medical Center; she also expressed her liking for the community garden.

Carl Evans- spoke about seeing the community garden back. He also spoke about the HOME program and how some vendors, like Brown Electric, responded quickly and did a great job, while others did not call back and were even rude and unprofessional.

Kay Holtzclaw expressed her dislike for the preliminary plat project, noting that there were too many homes for the road's size. She also mentioned not being notified of the approval because the hearing's date was changed to April.

Frank Holtzclaw-- expressed his dislike for the preliminary plat project, noting that there were too many homes for the road size. He also spoke about the different addresses being used for the same property.

John Randle- noted his concerns regarding speeding and running stop signs on Yancey Drive; he also mentioned investing in cameras on City View, Burke Rd, or Yancey Dr to capture those discharging firearms.

Chris Randle- thanked and congratulated the police department for capturing his brother's killer.

Samuel Ibanez- congratulated those who have been invited to visit Forest Park and Starr Park; he also noted that visitors have expressed how the bathrooms need to be fixed up. Mr. Ibanez noted business owners have been complaining about not having customers due to being scared of the police, and he does not see any follow-ups on public comments.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Ricky L. Clark Jr., City Manager- gave a brief update on the Envoy Kiosk, City Center, and the HOME Program. Mr. Clark noted that the Envoy Kiosk for visitors sign in have been deployed in three locations. He noted the efforts with the City Center will be a rebuild of the city hall facility comprising all of the departments within the city, with the exception of fire and public works. He hopes to have it out for bidding before the end of the year and off the ground within the next year. He noted the City Home program was designed to provide safe and comfortable housing for the seasoned population. He noted that 69 residents were approved to participate in the program. He noted they are opening up the portal to allow other general contractors to apply to participate in the program.

CONSENT AGENDA:

It was moved to approve all the items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

2. **Council Approval on the Renewal of the 4th Annual Service Agreement with Motorola Solutions-Fire and EMS Department**
3. **Council Approval on Central Square CAD/RMS Annual Renewal – IT Department /Police Department**
4. **Council Approval on Task Order 2024-03-033-R2 for Croft to Renovate an Existing Building Located at 330 Forest Parkway for a Vehicle Storage and Training Facility for the Fire Department- Planning and Community Development Department**
5. **Council Approval to Surplus Existing Playground Equipment from the Pocket Parks- Public Works Department**

OLD BUSINESS:

6. **Council Approval on a Vehicle Take-Home Policy – Executive Office**

It was moved to approve the Vehicle Take-Home Policy.

The motion was made by Councilmember Antoine and seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

NEW BUSINESS:

7. Community Garden Request- Legislative Offices

It was moved to approve the Community Garden using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilwoman James- asked if they were using the ARPA Funds and if that is part of the process they have to approve or is it automatic?

City Manager, Rick Clark – noted the request from staff is if the governing body's desire to leverage ARPA Funds is that it is a part of the actual motion authorizing the City Manager to amend the budget.

Councilmember Akins Wells- noted she would like to amend the motion, authorizing the City Manager to amend the budget.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

Voting Nay: Councilmember Antoine

8. Council Approval on a Fraternization and Nepotism Policy-Human Resources Department

It was moved to approve a Fraternization and Nepotism Policy.

The motion was made by Councilmember Antoine and seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

9. Council Approval of Case # PP-2024-02 – Preliminary Plat for 733-0 Scott Rd- Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to approve Case # PP-2024-02 – Preliminary Plat for 733-0 Scott Rd.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James- said that she understands it is hard to endure changes, and she knows the developer has worked hard for the last three (3) years to try to bring something to Scott Rd. She mentioned that the Council did deny a lot of things that were outside the scope of the approval process. She mentioned the developer changed the initial process of doing townhomes and decided to do single-family homes.

Councilmember Gutierrez – noted he respectfully disagrees with his colleague. He noted there are still 18 residents on 3 acres on a dead-end road. Mr. Gutierrez notes it is not something he approves of and will not support it.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – noted she has been against it from day one. She noted the families on this street are going to be impacted and there are so many other properties that can be used. She noted they work for the people and noted they should listen to the people. Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she wants everyone to be mindful of who is going to be impacted and try communicating with them. She noted she is not against the development, just the location.

Councilmember Mears- noted he thinks it is too much going on in a small area. He noted he welcomed developers to come in and help the city grow, but they would be pressing a lot of houses in a small area. He noted he is not for it.

Mayor Butler – noted that Mr. Lorenzo the developer is here tonight. She noted this is an item up for vote from the governing body and she would like him to speak. She noted this is one of the instances that it is being made difficult to do business in Forest Park. She noted he has come up with a concept, purchased property, and has made considerable consideration based on the feedback he has received from the people on Scott Road. She noted she wants to make sure the governing body is voting on accurate information. Mayor Butler asked him to explain what was before them previously compared to what is before them now.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- asked for a point of order and wanted to make sure they did not have to get a consistance for him to speak.

Mayor Butler- noted she is asking him to speak for part of her discussion.

Mr. Lorenzo – noted it was originally 11 homes, it was turned down because the neighbors did not want any type of development. He noted they purchased another property across the street, which gave them 3.59 acres on Scott Road. He noted they then tried to down 36 townhomes in the neighborhood. He noted Mrs. Kay and the neighbors did not want it. He noted he went to them all numerous times to ask what would they like. Mr. Lorenzo said Mrs. Kay stated, she wanted it to be woods forever, and he explained to her it cannot be just that. He noted when they rejected the townhomes in the last meeting, that Mrs. Kay and her husband stated they wanted single-family homes in front of everyone. He noted everything has been approved according to the building codes for the last 3 years.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine,

Voting Nay: Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

Councilmember James- noted if this is only a preliminary plat, she wanted clarity on the approval.

City Manager Ricky Clark – deferred to Attorney Matricardi and Mr. Shelby for background on preliminary plats.

Mr. Shelby – noted it is only a presentation and they would need to bring back to the board is the final plat, where construction is already completed. He noted they would approve the final plat so they can get it recorded.

Attorney Matricardi – under the city ordinance it does not require the preliminary plat to be approved by the Mayor and the City Council. The preliminary plats are only within the jurisdiction of the Planning Commission, which has already been approved along with the variances. She noted the only thing left to do is the final plat.

Mayor Butler- asked what if that is not approved?

Attorney Matricardi- noted they would have to go back and make changes to comply with the preliminary plat.

Mayor Butler- noted the denial would not be based on the plat itself, but the project. She asked what would they need to go back and revise.

Attorney Matricardi noted technically it does not change anything that has already occurred in the process. She noted they would not have to change anything because their preliminary plat has already been approved.

Councilmember Akins Wells- asked why is it even on the agenda if their vote was not needed.

Mr. Shelby- noted he was not sure and would get with his planner on it.

City Manager Clark noted he would like to clear up with the developer a few things. For zoning matters notices are sent to everyone within close proximity of the residents. The second thing is there are 2 separate parcels, and the 3rd thing is perhaps the City of Forest Park would like to revisit its Code of Ordinances. If there is a project and a variance is involved, the Planning and Commission Department makes the recommendations and then forwards them to the governing body, which allows the governing body to be involved in the full process.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- noted it needs to be revisited because the process is backward. She noted they are people they appoint so how are they making a final decision on things that will affect the community.

Mr. Clark – noted they do a text amendment and bring it back before the council.

Mr. Shelby – noted variances is not something that is afforded to the City Council, but if that is something that they want to see, it will be sent to them.

City Manager Clark noted they can look at the different variances and define what they look like.

Councilmember Gutierrez- asked when it come up initially was it because of a vote or because they were making an exception?

Mr. Shelby – noted it is because he was asking for town homes and he went beyond the ordinance.

Attorney Matricardi – noted it would be a conditional use permit which is one of the things that has to come. She noted they do everything as a recommending body except for variances. She noted she will put something together for advertisement according to the Zoning Procedure Act, before it is enacted.

Mayor Butler – noted this was on the agenda for a vote, but technicality it does not need a vote. Even though it failed the project will still commence but it will have to come back for a final vote. If the final plat is denied the project can still continue.

Attorney Matricardi – they would have to make amendments in order to get the final plat.

Mayor Butler – noted she is confused because it is not being rejected based on any recommended amendments. It is being rejected because of how people feel.

Councilmember James – asked for a point of order. The final plat is after the project is completed.

Mr. Shelby – noted once the houses have been constructed, they will bring back the final plat, which is the law. It has to go back to the county to be recorded before the Clayton County Clerk.

Councilmember James- noted it is just a mechanism of recording the work is done, but the work does not stop.

Mayor Butler- noted one thing omitted from the agenda was the City Manager's Report.

City Manager Clark- noted he apologized and will make sure the items that require ratification are the only ones placed on the agenda.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- noted to please make sure of that, because it is a waste of the citizens time, and we are wasting our time. She asked him to start holding people accountable.

Mr. Clark- noted it is a learning experience and they should spend sometime going through said zoning practices for the governing body and how it relates to each respective ward. He plans to get that information back to them within the next 60 days.

After much discussion, it was noted that the motion was voided because the subject matter was outside the jurisdiction of the City Council. City Attorney Matricardi clarified that only the Planning Commission approves all Preliminary Plats.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember Mears -thanked everyone for coming and wanted them to know they do their job to the best of their ability. He noted he missed Mr. Finch who is always in attendance, and thanked fire and police for doing a great job in the extreme weather.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- welcomed the new employees. She noted they went to Savannah and had a great time, they worked and learned. She noted she is big on community policing and know that there are a lot of new officers. She noted the Mayor of College Park stated it is not just about writing tickets, its about helping fix some of the problems. For example, if you have a broken taillight let me give you a voucher to help get it fixed versus giving you a ticket. This is something that she would like to initiate. She congratulated Ms. Wicks and welcomed her. She noted when it comes to voting, that she would like the people to be mindful of whom they elect to sit up there.

Councilmember Gutierrez – welcomed the new employees. He noted that Food Truck Friday would be the following week since this is the 4th of July Week. He thanked staff for what they do, and noted he may not agree with the way everything is done, but nothing is personal. Councilmember Gutierrez stated he is excited about the Community Garden and is glad it is named after Mr. Finch, who has a wealth of knowledge. He welcomed Ms. Wicks and stated, if she needed anything to let him know. He congratulated the developer and thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Antione – congratulated the new hires and thanked everyone for coming.

Councilmember James- thanked everyone for coming out and wanted to make sure they tune into the Ward 1 meetings that are posted online. She noted she liked having information on the agenda so they know what is going on. She stated she is the Chair of the URA Board and they have a strategic meeting coming up, and she will be

providing them with updates. She noted she is excited about the new development that is coming. She noted the government approved a Homestead exemption and is trying to get information to ensure the community has it. She welcomed Senator Wicks and asked for information. She thanked the police department and staff for all that they do. She noted that the budget passed, and people would be getting a raise, and indicated once the compensation study is complete people will know any additional increases to be received.

Mayor Butler- welcomed the new employees and the Senator. She noted historic strides have been made in the last 7 years and looks to make those strides even grander.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues: Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate).

It was moved to recess into Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

It was moved to approve the easement of 954 Main Street-Georgia Power.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

It was moved to approve the separation and settlement agreement for J.P.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

It was moved to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the Regular Session Meeting at 8:25 pm.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for Council meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at 404-366-4720 at least 24 hours before the meeting.